

2011-110 AUDIT SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES—Office of Traffic Safety, Sobriety Checkpoints

The audit by the Bureau of State Audits will provide independently developed and verified information related to the Office of Traffic Safety's (OTS) oversight of grants it provides for sobriety checkpoints, and will include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Review and evaluate the laws, rules, and regulations significant to the audit objectives.
2. Determine the source of funds that OTS used to fund grants for sobriety checkpoints.
3. Review OTS' role in overseeing the entities that receive grant funds. Determine if OTS monitors the entities to ensure sobriety checkpoints are conducted according to any guidelines or standards that exist.
4. Determine whether statewide guidelines exist governing how and when sobriety checkpoints are announced and publicized, and the extent to which OTS monitors whether law enforcement agencies adhere to these guidelines.
5. Determine whether centralized statewide data exists on sobriety checkpoints funded by OTS grants and to the extent this information is available, identify the following for the last five-year period:
 - a. Trend in the total number of citations issued each year at sobriety checkpoints by type of violation.
 - b. Ratio of citations issued at sobriety checkpoints to the number of vehicles going through the checkpoints each year.
 - c. Trend in the total number of cars impounded each year at the checkpoints categorized by type of citation causing the vehicle impound.
 - d. Ratio of citations that caused vehicle impound to the total number of citations issued at checkpoints for each year.
 - e. Frequency of sobriety checkpoints by day of the week and time of day for each year.
6. If statewide data is not maintained centrally, select a sample of regional coordinators and perform the analysis identified in objective 5.
7. Conduct a survey of selected law enforcement agencies that use grant funds from OTS to operate sobriety checkpoints and obtain information that includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- a. The methods used by the law enforcement agency to identify the location, day and time, frequency, and number of officers to conduct sobriety checkpoints and whether the methods comply with any established guidelines or criteria.
 - b. The revenue generated from citations issued at checkpoints, including fees from towing firms.
 - c. The amount of overtime paid to officers operating these checkpoints.
8. Review and assess any other issues that are significant to the OTS and the sobriety checkpoints it funds.